New Nouveau Brunswick CANADA

News Release

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N.B. Human Rights Commission

March 21: Elimination of Racial Discrimination Day (02/03/19)

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FREDERICTON (CNB) -- The following is a statement by Dr. Patrick Malcolmson, chair of the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission, on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on March 21, 2002:

"March 21 is the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The date was chosen by the United Nations because it is the anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre in 1960, when South African police shot at peaceful anti-apartheid demonstrators, killing 69 and wounding 180.

Last year, 2001, was the International Year of Mobilization Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. The focus of the year was the World Conference Against Racism held in Durban, South Africa. The conference showed that racism continues to be an issue throughout the world, an issue that has many facets and that in some cases has become more destructive and more entrenched. It also revealed the many challenges faced by those who wish to combat racism. Through both its successes and its failures, the conference showed that the language of hate must be replaced with well-informed and open-minded dialogue, that hate cannot overcome hate and racism cannot overcome racism.

While we would like to think that racism is not a prominent issue in New Brunswick, the cross-burning and anti-Semitic incidents in Moncton in 2001, the anti-Islamic reaction to the September 11 massacre, and the racial tension between Natives and non-Natives over access to resources remind us that racism and religious intolerance continue to be issues in New Brunswick, as they are elsewhere.

These instances illustrate the continued strains and social costs that burden our society as a result of racism. In order to take full advantage of the opportunities that are available to us as a society, we must overcome these obstacles. We must turn the page on intolerance, open ourselves to dialogue and seek new understandings so that we can embrace our diversity of race, culture, language and religion.

On March 21, I invite all New Brunswickers, and young people in particular, to join the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission in our enduring commitment to fight racism in all its forms."

02/03/19

EDITOR'S NOTE: More information is available on the NBHRC Web site: http://www.gnb.ca/hrc-cdp/e/index.htm. MEDIA CONTACT: Francis Young, Human Rights Officer, N.B. Human Rights Commission, Fredericton, 506-453-2308.

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